

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for tracking completion of a request across a request identification boundary in a system including a trace log for recording stages of completing a request, the method comprising:
  - 5 first recording, within the trace log, a first event including a first request identification;
  - second recording, within the trace log, a second event including a second request identification; and
  - storing linking information, within the trace log marking a transition of the request identification from the first request identification to the second request identification.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the request identification transition corresponds to processing the request by a first and a second server component.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the request identification transition corresponds to processing the request by a first and a second thread.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the request identification transition  
20 corresponds to changing a request identification while completing a same transaction arising from the request.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the request identification transition corresponds to transferring a request from a first machine to a second machine.
- 25 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of correlating, by a consumer utility, the first and second events to the request using the linking information.
7. The method of claim 6 further comprising applying by the consumer  
30 utility, a set of trace records for the request, including event records for the first and second events, to a state machine.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the state machine models a sequence of events corresponding to a composite request.

5 9. The method of claim 7 wherein an event type value is stored for each recorded event and wherein the event type value directs progression of the state machine.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the storing linking information step is performed after the first recording event and before the second recording step.

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11. The method of claim 1 wherein the linking information comprises a request identification transition event record, and wherein the request identification transition event record includes:

a transition event identifier,

15 the first request identification, and

the second request identification.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the first recording step and second recording step each comprises storing a timestamp corresponding to the first and second events, respectively.

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13. An event tracing framework maintained on a computer-readable medium and containing computer-executable instructions for tracking completion of a request across a request identification boundary in a system including a trace log for recording stages of completing a request, the event tracing framework including computer  
5 executable instructions facilitating performing the steps of:

first recording, within the trace log, a first event including a first request identification;

second recording, within the trace log, a second event including a second request identification; and

10 storing linking information, within the trace log marking a transition of the request identification from the first request identification to the second request identification.

14. The event tracing framework of claim 13 wherein the request  
15 identification transition corresponds to processing the request by a first and a second server component.

15. The event tracing framework of claim 13 wherein the request  
20 identification transition corresponds to processing the request by a first and a second thread.

16. The event tracing framework of claim 13 wherein the request  
identification transition corresponds to changing a request identification while  
completing a same transaction arising from the request.

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17. The event tracing framework of claim 13 wherein the request  
identification transition corresponds to transferring a request from a first machine to a  
second machine.

18. The event tracing framework of claim 13 further comprising a consumer utility including computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of correlating the first and second events to the request using the linking information.

5           19. The event tracing framework of claim 18 further comprising computer executable instructions facilitating applying a set of trace records for the request, including event records for the first and second events, to a state machine.

20. The event tracing framework of claim 19 wherein the state machine  
10 models a sequence of events corresponding to a composite request.

21. The event tracing framework of claim 19 wherein an event type value is stored for each recorded event and wherein the event type value directs progression of the state machine.

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22. The event tracing framework of claim 13 wherein the storing linking information step is performed after the first recording event and before the second recording step.

20           23. The event tracing framework of claim 13 wherein the linking information comprises a request identification transition event record, and wherein the request identification transition event record includes:

25           a transition event identifier,  
the first request identification, and  
the second request identification.

24. The event tracing framework of claim 13 wherein the first recording step and second recording step each includes storing a timestamp corresponding to the first and second events, respectively.

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25. An event log consumer utility stored on a computer-readable medium and containing computer-executable instructions for generating performance reports relating to tracking completion of a request across a request identification boundary in a system including a trace log for recording stages of completing a request, the event log consumer utility comprising:

a request completion trace event reconstruction function for generating performance data associated with a request including executable instructions for:

first locating, within the trace log, a first event including a first request identification;

second locating, within the trace log, a second event including a second request identification; and

reading linking information, within the trace log marking a transition of the request identification from the first request identification to the second request identification; and

correlating the first event and second event with the request.

26. The event log consumer utility of claim 25 wherein the linking information is provided by a event trace record including a transfer event type, a source request identification and a destination request identification.

27. The event log consumer utility of claim 25 wherein the request identification boundary corresponds to a change of components processing a request.

28. The event log consumer utility of claim 25 wherein the request identification boundary corresponds to a change of machine processing a request.

29. A trace event record provider facilitating linking recorded events arising from a same request across request identification boundaries, the provider comprising executable instructions for generating an event tracing record comprising:

- 5 a request identification transition event type generator;
- a source request identification; and
- a destination request identification.

30. The trace event record provider of claim 29 wherein the request identification boundary corresponds to a change of components processing a request.

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31. The trace event record provider of claim 29 wherein the request identification boundary corresponds to a change of machine processing a request.

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